

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed July 14, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this Application, Applicant submits the following remarks, has canceled claims and has added new claims. Applicant prays that, after consideration of these remarks, a favorable decision will be provided regarding the claims. The claims as now presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 13-18 were pending in this Application. By this Amendment, claim 18 has been canceled. Claims 24-25 have been added. Accordingly, claims 13-17 and 24-25 are now pending in this Application. Claims 13, 24 and 25 are independent claims.

Allowed Claims

Claim 18 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Rather than rewrite claim 18 to include all of the limitations of claim 13 from which claim 18 depends, Applicant has rewritten claim 13 to include all of the limitations of claim 18 and canceled claim 18. Accordingly, claim 13 is now in allowable condition.

Because claims 14-17 depend from and further limit claim 13, claims 14-17 are in allowable condition for at least the same reasons.

Newly Added Claims

Claims 24 and 25 have been added and are believed to be in allowable condition. Claims 24 and 25 are independent claims. Support for claims 24 and 25 is provided within the Specification, for example, on page 14, line 27 through page 15, last line, and in Fig. 6B. No new matter has been added.

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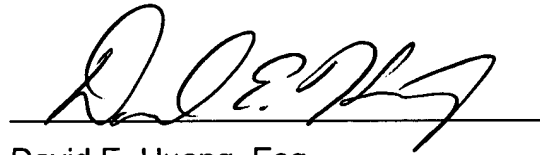
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, this Application should be in condition for allowance. A Notice to this affect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this Amendment, that the Application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicant's Representative at the number below.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this Amendment, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0901.

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 366-9600, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. E. Huang', is written over a horizontal line.

David E. Huang, Esq.
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No.: 39,229
CHAPIN & HUANG, L.L.C.
Westborough Office Park
1700 West Park Drive
Westborough, Massachusetts 01581
Telephone: (508) 366-9600
Facsimile: (508) 616-9805

Attorney Docket No.: CIS03-62(8756)

Dated: October 12, 2004